



UK Visas
& Immigration

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Asylum SEG Members

[BY EMAIL]

Date: 23 April 2021

Dear All,

At the Asylum SEG in September we committed to keeping you updated on any developments regarding our policy approach to decisions to discontinue support provided to asylum seekers and failed asylum seekers under section 95 or 4(2) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. I am therefore writing to let you know that the Minister for Future Borders and Immigration has written to Local Authority Chief Executives today setting out that with immediate effect we will begin to review and process cases for possible cessation from those failed asylum seekers who are currently in receipt of support under Section 95.

This approach will apply to England initially, and although the expectation is that a similar approach will be applied in the rest of the United Kingdom, there will be separate discussions with officials in the Devolved Administrations about the precise arrangements. We will commence the review of those cases who are receipt of support under Section 4 at a later stage pending the resolution of ongoing litigation.

We will be sharing details of the current number of cases for review with local authorities to assist them in planning. However I would like to emphasise that it is not possible at this stage to be definitive about the final volume of cases that will have their support discontinued. This is partly because all individuals will continue to receive a minimum of 21 calendar days notice from the decision to stop their support and have the opportunity to remain in their accommodation, supported under section 4(2) of the 1999 Act, provided that they agree to take reasonable steps to leave the UK (in practical terms by registering with the Home Office's voluntary returns programme and leaving when a flight can be arranged for them).

Andy Kelly, Deputy Director of Asylum Support and Specialist Casework, and his team will be writing out with further details regarding the operational approach we will be taking to implement this and what it may mean for individual local authority areas. We will ask that the SMPs continue to share relevant details with local NGOs. I would be grateful if you and your teams could please continue to work closely with Andy and his team through the Strategic Migration Partnerships on this.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

Sean Palmer